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Memoirs of General Lafayette - 1825

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Lafayette

Boston. Published by E. G. House. 1824.

M E M O I R S

OF

GENERAL LAFAYETTE,

WITH AN

**Account of his present Visit to this country,
and a description of his Tour through
the United States ;**

AND A DETAIL OF THE

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
17TH JUNE, AND LAYING THE CORNER STONE**

OF THE

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.

WITH A CORRECT LIKENESS.

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY E. G. HOUSE, No. 13, MERCHANTS-HALL.

1825.

Fr 1382.45.8



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Gift of the
New England Antiquarian
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MEMOIRS

OF

GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

AMONG the many great men who have distinguished themselves in the present age, for their attachment and devotion to the cause of civil liberty, general LAFAYETTE is one of the most eminent. The struggle for freedom by the patriotic citizens of America, towards the close of the last century, was successful ; and has proved most auspicious to human happiness.

It must be acknowledged, that there was a *peculiar* disinterestedness in the services and sacrifices of the Marquis *Lafayette*, in defence of American independence. It was from a noble and enthusiastic love of liberty, that he was induced to cherish and advocate our cause. It was for strangers and in a foreign land, that he went forth to defend the rights of man, assailed by the hand of arbitrary power. He was not a desperate adventurer, without fortune, or friends, or honors. He was surrounded with all these in his own country. He belonged to a very ancient and noble family, and inherited a large estate. The original family name was Motier ; but for several generations back had assumed the addition of *Lafayette*. Some of his male ancestors were distinguished for military, and some of the females for literary talents. His income was 200,000 francs. His property and influence were increased by a matrimonial connexion with a lady of the truly illustrious house of NOAILES. He was married at the age of eighteen.

MARIE-PAUL-JOSEPH-ROCH-YVES-GILBERT-MOTIER DE LAFAYETTE was born at the chateau de Chavagnac in the province of Auvergne, September 6th 1757. The rank and affluence of

his family secured for him the best education: and this, according to the fashion of the times in France, was not only in classical and polite literature, but united also a knowledge of military tactics. At the age of sixteen, he was offered an honorable place at Court, which he declined.

While he was at Paris, (Dec. 1776) with the view of coming to America, Dr. FRANKLIN arrived. The intelligence, received from him respecting our situation and prospects at that period, was of a nature to discourage any one, who had not cherished the most enthusiastic and resolute purpose to engage in our behalf. Our almost desperate condition seems only to have increased his zeal and devotion to the interests of America. "Hitherto, said he, I have only cherished your cause; I now go to serve it personally."

He therefore immediately engaged a vessel at his own charges, and sailed for the United States, where he arrived in the month of January. He landed at Charleston, S. C. and soon entered, as a volunteer, in the American army. Soon after his arrival, he purchased clothing and arms for the troops under Gen. MOUTRIE in that quarter. He also early made an advance to Gen. WASHINGTON of 60,000 francs, for the public service.

For several months, he continued to serve in this capacity. His zeal and services were early appreciated by Congress; and in July, 1777, he was created a Major-General. In the battle of Brandywine, in September of the same year, he received a wound in his leg, and his services were highly applauded. In November, at the head of some Jersey militia, he attacked a body of 800 Hessians and defeated them.

In June, 1778, he took an active part in the battle near Monmouth Court-house, and in this whole affair, conducted with remarkable intelligence and bravery; and received the entire approbation of the Commander in Chief.

Early in the year 1779, after an absence from his beloved family and country of more than two years, Lafayette visited France: not, however, without the consent of Congress and also General Washington, and a determination to return to America at a future day. He embarked at Boston. With all his zeal in favour of liberty and America, which he considered engaged in its sacred cause against an arbitrary power, he acknowledged his obligations to assist in protecting his native country.

The Marquis Lafayette came again to the United States in April 1780, and landed at Boston, though the vessel first touched at Marblehead on its way to the former place. The frigate in which he returned to this country, was chased by an English man of war; and when it was supposed they must come to action, Lafayette was found at one of the guns preparing to act his part should they be attacked.

Soon after his return to America the Marquis was entrusted with the command of a select corps of the Light Infantry of the continental army. He presented each officer of the corps with an elegant sword; and the soldiers were clothed in uniform principally at his expense.

Early in the year 1781, Lafayette was detached with about twelve hundred troops to Virginia; with a view to co-operate with the French fleet in checking the plundering expedition of General Arnold, who had then recently landed there with a body of British troops from New York. The Marquis performed this long and difficult march with great dispatch. Many of the soldiers under his command were deficient in clothing: and it was by the personal responsibility of General Lafayette that funds to purchase necessities were raised in Baltimore and vicinity to remedy this evil.

In the month of May, 1781, Lord Cornwallis, in his progress from North Carolina into Virginia, formed a junction with the British forces under Arnold and Phillips. His object was immediately to crush the Americans under Lafayette, then encamped near Richmond. Lafayette made good a retreat; and escaped the net Cornwallis had prepared for him, with such confident hopes of success.

His efforts continued, and were conspicuous on various trying occasions. In the affair near Jamestown, he was in great personal danger, and one of his horses was shot under him.

In November following the Marquis returned to France, having first obtained the consent of Congress, and of the commander in chief. Congress ordered that a conveyance be provided for General Lafayette, in a public vessel, whenever he should choose to embark; and voted to send a letter by him, to the King of France.

Lafayette returned to this country the following spring, after having effectually exerted himself to obtain the assistance of France in our cause. He again joined the army, and during the whole of the campaign of that year, which terminated in the capture of the British army under Lord Cornwallis, acted a very distinguished part, having command of the light infantry, who were employed in most of the hard fighting; and who, on all occasions distinguished themselves, particularly at the storming the redoubts at Yorktown.

In the summer of 1784, the Marquis de Lafayette once more visited America. He came to witness the prosperity and improvements of the country; and to enjoy the society of those brave and honorable men, with whom he had been associated in fighting the battles of liberty. He was received with an affectionate welcome, little less enthusiastic and splendid, than that

with which he has been lately greeted, on landing again on our shores, after a lapse of forty years. He then also arrived at the port of New York; and in October following made a visit to Boston.

When about to leave the United States and return to France, December 1784, the Marquis de Lafayette addressed Congress, and expressed a desire to take a respectful leave of that body, before his final departure. A committee was appointed on this request of the Marquis, of which the Hon. John Jay was chairman; who received the Marquis in Congress Hall, and took leave of him in the name of that honorable body, agreeably to the instructions given them.

On the return of the Marquis de Lafayette to his native country, in 1785, he spent some time in the bosom of his amiable family. With an affectionate wife, of cultivated mind and accomplished manners; with a circle of literary friends, and enjoying a high reputation for his heroic services in America, he must have possessed all the ingredients of human happiness. He received the smiles of the King and Court; was carressed by the gay and chivalrous; and had the esteem and friendship of the first literary characters in France. He was fond of agricultural pursuits; and as his estates were extensive, he devoted a considerable portion of his time to the cultivation and improvement of his lands. During this time his hospitable attentions were shewn to American travellers, who were always sure of his friendship.

In 1787, he was chosen deputy to the assembly of the States General, by the nobility of Auvergne, his native province; and at this time he shared largely in the popular favour.

In 1789 he was appointed to the command of the Parisian militia. (afterwards denominated the national guard,) which had been promptly organized at his suggestion. Lafayette, at the head of the national guards, attracted as much notice and possessed as great influence as the King himself. His popularity seemed unbounded: nor did he commit any act of cruelty or injustice to injure his high reputation. He continued to act a distinguished part in these times of great peril and dismay in which he displayed his usual courage in support of constitutional freedom. But he was destined to suffer a reverse of fortune, and to be the subject of the most unjust and cruel persecution. The violent party prevailed; Lafayette and constitutional liberty were proscribed; and the spirit of anarchy and misrule dictated the violent proceedings which deluged France in blood.

Lafayette now commanded the army of the north. He visited Paris in order to counteract the influence of the Jacobins, which had become predominant: but failing in his attempt he returned to the army, and finding himself robbed of their confi-

dence, as well as that of the assembly, and thus deprived of all hope of being useful to his country, he quitted France, with an intention of retiring to America, where he had just reason to expect a grateful reception. He was arrested by an Austrian General, and delivered over to the King of Prussia, who ordered him to be confined in a prison at Wesel and at Magdeburg. Here he suffered some time, when he was removed to the fortress of Olmutz. In this place he was kept under the most rigorous confinement—enduring the privations and severity fit only to be inflicted on the greatest criminals.

After a close confinement of several weeks in the common prison at Wesel, he was removed to Magdeburg, and thence to Olmutz, where he was confined about four years; when Henry Bollman, a young German physician, and Francis Huger, an American, made great personal sacrifices, and exposed themselves to imminent dangers to effect his escape. They failed in the attempt, and were taken and thrown into prison; and the consequence was that Lafayette was put in irons and treated with more rigour than before. Madam Lafayette and her two daughters, then about fifteen and twelve, were cast into prison at Paris. The family estates were confiscated, and most of his particular friends fell by the stroke of the guillotine. In this agonizing condition, she maintained the most wonderful fortitude and patience; without uncommon firmness and sincere trust in providence, she must have sunk under such deep and complicated distress. When she was released from the prison, after about twenty months of degrading confinement, her constitution was greatly enfeebled, and her friends and physician advised her to seek repose at some retired place in the country. But she refused, and feeble and emaciated as she was, she resolved to proceed immediately to Olmutz, and to bury herself in prison with her husband, unless she could possibly procure his liberation. With this purpose in view, she went first to Vienna, to endeavour to conciliate the favor and influence of the Emperor. Through the friendly interposition of two noble females acquainted at court, she was admitted to an audience with the Emperor.

He received her graciously, and professed a desire that her request might be fulfilled; but gave no positive orders for the liberation of Lafayette, because his *political* engagements with other courts prevented it. He, however, consented that she might visit her husband. She accordingly repaired to Olmutz, to minister, as an angel of light, to his comfort, though not clothed with power to give him that liberty, which they ardently hoped. She and her daughters shared with him the confinement of a dreary prison, for nearly two years. It was not until 1797,

that they were set at liberty : and this was immediately owing to the influence of General Bonaparte, on his victories over the Austrians in that year. Lafayette expressed his gratitude for this generous interference ; but he made no sacrifice of principle, and was never his admirer or supporter.

When he was set free from the long and severe incarceration at Olmutz, Lafayette proceeded to the neutral city of Hamburg, with his family ; where he received the kindest and most respectful attentions from some American gentlemen, then in that place, and also from many of the distinguished citizens, who cherished the highest regard for his character, and his meritorious services in the cause of liberty. It was at this time, that his son, George Washington Lafayette, joined the family, on his return from the United States, where he had just then passed several years.

In 1800 a new revolution took place in the French government. The executive power, by the new constitution, was to be placed in three Consuls, of whom Napoleon was elected chief. By the constitutionalists and those opposed to the violent factions, by which France had been long agitated and disgraced, this change was considered as auspicious to the cause of rational liberty. Lafayette seized this favorable moment to return to France, after an absence of nearly eight years. His patriotic feelings had not abated, though he had suffered so long and so intensely from the hatred of those who directed the destinies of his country. His love of liberty was not weakened, though many of his countrymen, with its sacred name on their lips, had committed excesses almost without a parallel in the most despotic governments. The First Consul invited him to take a seat in the Conservative Senate ; but he declined ; by which he gave new proofs of his disinterested and sincere attachment to the constitutional liberty and the rights of the people. He perceived that the constitution was to serve as an apology for the exercise of unlimited power in the First Consul ; and that representatives and senators were to be the humble ministers of his will. He saw that the constitution did not emanate from the will of the people ; and was not calculated to secure and promote their welfare. Bonaparte also had discernment to learn, that Lafayette was too sincere a friend to civil liberty and to the interests of the people, to support his purposes, or submit to his plans of personal aggrandizement.

To a man of his great sensibility and warmth of affection, the severest affliction which Lafayette has been called to endure, great and various as have been his sufferings, now awaited him. His amiable, his attach and devoted wife was torn from him, in his retreat, within a few years after his return to France ;

when he more than ever, perhaps, needed her company and solace, to fortify his mind under the multiplied disappointments from the world.

She had never enjoyed perfect health after her imprisonment at Olmutz. But possessed of uncommon fortitude and imbued with religious sentiments, she was still instrumental in promoting the happiness of her husband and family. Her patience, her equanimity, her sweetness of temper never forsook her. But her constitution was broken, and a sudden paralysis deprived her of her physical strength and almost of speech. At the urgent request of her husband, though with reluctance, she was conveyed to Paris for medical assistance ; but it proved in vain. She died in December 1807.

While Madam de Lafayette was in the prison in Paris, though treated with the greatest severity by Robespierre and his party, she had the consolation of sharing in the sympathetic kindness and assistance of many individuals, who were willing to expose themselves to the hatred of her cruel persecutors for her relief. A gentleman from Boston, Joseph Russel, Esq. then a resident in Paris, made great efforts for her liberation ; although by this generous interference he hazarded his own life. It was through his friendly assistance, that her son G. W. Lafayette, then about fourteen years of age, was conveyed to the United States, where he remained till the discharge of his parents from the dungeons of Olmutz.

About this period, and soon after the death of his amiable wife, General Lafayette received a severe fracture in one of his legs, by a fall, which occasioned his confinement for nearly twelve months, and was the cause of his present lameness. For six or seven years, till 1814, when Louis XVIII. returned to France to mount the throne of the Bourbons, Lafayette resided at his chateau of La Grange, an inactive spectator of the political changes which took place. After the restoration of the Bourbons, Lafayette was elected a member of the chamber of deputies from his own department, though he had protested against the articles of the constitution of the empire, and of the additional act which conspired against the *sovereignty* of the people, and the rights of the citizens. This was a strong proof of the sense the people had of his integrity and his patriotism. After the battle of Waterloo, Napoleon returned to Paris, in consternation, and undecided as to the course he would pursue on this signal reverse of fortune. Some of his friends advised him again to abdicate the office of Emperor, which he held by so precarious a tenure ; others suggested decisive and bold measures, with a view to fortify himself in power, even in opposition to the will and wishes of the deputies. He attempted to prorogue the chamber

of representatives, and have himself proclaimed perpetual dictator. Lafayette was then present in the chamber; and with his usual independence and energy, made some very spirited observations.

When the Emperor was informed that Lafayette was in the tribune, and engaged in the discussions on the proposition of constituting him dictator for life, he expressed great alarm and anxiety. He knew the sentiments of Lafayette too well, not to feel assured of his opposition to such a measure. For this consistent and zealous advocate for the rights of the people had always been hostile to a chief magistrate, under any title who should possess absolute power, and contended for a constitution to limit and define the executive authority. It was then that Bonaparte exclaimed, "La Fayette in the tribune!" and his great agitation betrayed the belief, that his power was at an end.

Although he opposed the ambitious views of Bonaparte, and boldly and decidedly remonstrated against his intention of again assuming absolute power, yet he moved in the chamber of Representatives, at this time, that the liberty and person of the late Emperor Napoleon should be placed under the protection of the French nation; expecting, probably, that the allied princes of Europe; already in the vicinity of Paris with powerful armies, would take his life, or cause him to be imprisoned.

Lafayette was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Chamber of Deputies to propose to the allied powers a suspension of hostilities.

Except the short and occasional engagements in political concerns, as above related, Lafayette, after his return to France in the year 1800, generally remained at his estate, about thirty miles from Paris. But though retired from the more active scenes of public life, he enjoyed the friendship of several eminent characters in his own country; and was visited by all distinguished Americans, and many British statesmen and scholars; whose business or amusement led them to travel through France. His son and two daughters, who were married and have children; resided with him.

M. Lafayette was returned a member of the chamber of deputies from his own department, in 1819, though his election was opposed by the ministerial party. Some members rejoiced to see again among them, the "friend and disciple of Washington," while others, the adherents of monarchy, viewed him with distrust and jealousy, as "the veteran general of the revolution." He was not a very active member of this legislative body; for he was convinced it would be in vain to attempt restoring the constitution of 1789. He seldom attended the as-

sembly: but on several questions, when he was present, discovered the same political sentiments which directed his conduct in the early days of the revolution.

The distinguished Americans and Englishmen who have visited Lafayette, at his family mansion of La Grange, describe his residence and its inmates as most beautiful and interesting. It is situated in the fertile district of La Brie, thirty miles from Paris, remote from any common road, and far distant from the bustling world.

Having followed Lafayette through many years of an active and eventful life, and having witnessed his course in various critical and responsible situations, we may be prepared to form a correct estimate of his talents, his wisdom and his virtues. It is far from our wishes to pronounce an unqualified or exaggerated panegyric on his character. But for the honor of our species and in justice to this eminent philanthropist, it is proper that his heroic and generous actions, and his firmness and perseverance of purpose in the cause of civil liberty and of the rights of mankind, should be duly appreciated. And when we reflect upon the ardour and constancy of his efforts in favour of American Independence; upon his personal sacrifices and exposure to danger in our behalf, in the field, and his solicitations as our advocate at the court of Louis; upon his warm attachment to Washington, and to the other patriots and heroes of our glorious revolution; very few, indeed, have done so much for the social happiness of their fellows; that very few deserve the gratitude and applause, which may be justly claimed for this very eminent asserter of the rights of man.

When it is recollected what important and disinterested services the Marquis de Lafayette had performed for America, in the most critical periods of our revolutionary war, it cannot be thought unreasonable, that the citizens of the United States held his character in high estimation, and were desirous of greeting him once more, on their own territory, which he had assisted by his zeal and valour to defend. In his letters to his friends here, and in the interviews, which he had with American gentlemen at his own hospitable mansion, he frequently expressed a wish and an intention of again visiting this favoured land of liberty. He cherished precious recollections of the times, long since past, when he joined with many brave and honorable spirits in the sacred cause of freedom. To the patriots and heroes who achieved our independence, he had a most sincere and cordial attachment; and his military associates who survived, and their children, who had often heard of his heroic and generous deeds, were eager on their part to welcome him to their country and their affections; and to show to him and to

the world, that they entertained a high sense of his sacrifices and efforts in securing to them the privileges and blessings they so richly enjoy.

In January 1824, when it was known, that General Lafayette proposed to take passage for the United States, the Representatives of the nation, in Congress assembled, requested the President "to offer him a public ship for his accommodation; [he declined this offer, and chose to embark in a private vessel] and to assure him, in the name of the people of this great Republic, that they cherished for him a grateful and affectionate attachment."

The Legislature of Massachusetts also at its session in June last, adopted a resolve; "requesting the Governor to make such arrangements, as would secure to this distinguished friend of our country, an honorable reception, on the part of this State, and authorizing him to draw any sum from the public treasury to meet the expenses arising thereupon."

Letters were written to General Lafayette, before he left France by several distinguished individuals, and by the Mayor of New York and of Boston, in the name and behalf of those corporations, expressing a strong desire, that he would visit America, as it was reported he intended, and informing him of the universal and sincere disposition of the citizens, to present him a tribute of esteem and gratitude.

His arrival was anticipated with great interest and impatience. Preparations were in contemplation, particularly in New-York and Boston, several weeks before he arrived, to receive him with such public marks of veneration and joy, as were justly due to one so distinguished by an ardent love of liberty, and by meritorious exertions for the welfare of our country.

He arrived in the harbour of New-York on the morning of the 15th of August, accompanied by his son George W. Lafayette, and his friend, M. Le Vasseur, where he was received with all the demonstrations of joy that could be shown.

During the four days he remained in New-York, all gentlemen and ladies of the most respectable families were individually introduced to him; and he manifested great pleasure at the cordial welcome, with which he was universally greeted.

On the two following days after his arrival in New-York, General Lafayette received the gratulations of a great number of the citizens; and on the latter, was addressed by committees of the society of Cincinnati, and of the Historical Society; and also visited the navy yard of the United States. On board of the ship *Washington*, of 74 guns, his reception was very splendid, and a sumptuous repast was provided. On Thursday, deputations from the Frenchmen resident in the city, and from the gentle-

men of the Bar, waited on him, and presented congratulatory addresses.

After his arrival at New-York, he early announced his intention to visit Boston, where he had been particularly invited by distinguished individuals, and by the city authorities; especially as the commencement at the University in Cambridge, the literary jubilee of the State, was to be celebrated in a few days. While in New-York, he received invitations by committees or letters from Philadelphia, Albany, New-Haven and some other cities, to make a visit to those places respectively; but his desire was first to visit Boston, if possible.

He left New York on his visit to Boston, passing through Connecticut and Rhode-Island, where he was greeted with all the honours that could be shown by a grateful people.

He reached New-Haven about midnight, on his approach to which he was met by the governor's guard, and escorted into that city. Most of the buildings on the principal streets were illuminated, and a national salute was fired.

He reached Providence on Monday, the 23d, at 12 o'clock, having been met at an early hour, on the boundary line between Connecticut and Rhode Island, by the aids of the Governor of the last named state. When he arrived at the limits of the town of Providence, an immense crowd of citizens were assembled to bid him welcome, and to offer him their hearty congratulations. The houses and streets in the western part of the town, where he entered, were filled with citizens, who greeted him as he passed with reiterated cheers.

He left Providence the same day on his way to Boston, having engaged to be there on Tuesday morning.

At Pautucket, he was met by the aids of Governor Eustis, the Chief Magistrate of the State of Massachusetts, who had been dispatched, the day before, to receive him at the line of the Commonwealth, and to escort him on his way to the capital. Although it was now evening; at several places on the road, large bodies of the militia were collected to salute him; and assemblies of ladies and gentlemen were occasionally met, who offered this illustrious stranger, but respected friend of their country, their tribute of applause and affection. He was too sensible of their sincerity and warmth of their felicitations, not to delay his journey at several vilages, and to reciprocate their kind and cordial salutations.

On Tuesday the 24th he entered the city of Boston, where he was received with all the pomp and ceremony that could do him honour, was addressed by the mayor and governor, and a public dinner was given on the occasion.

On Wednesday he attended the Commencement at Cambridge, where he was addressed by President Kirkland, and every attention was paid him by the officers and students of this ancient Seminary. The next day he was present at the celebration of the Phi Beta Kappa.

On Friday he visited Charlestown, where he met with a welcome reception from the people, and was escorted on to Bunker Hill and addressed by the Civil Authorities. While on the hill it was stated to him by Governor Brooks, that an association had been formed, and means adopted to erect a Monument on this celebrated spot, to perpetuate to posterity the famous battle fought there on the 17th of June, 1775, being the commencement of our revolutionary struggle for Independence, and that the next year being the 50th Anniversary of that event, would be celebrated, and that the Corner Stone of the Monument would then be laid. Lafayette was much pleased with the plan, and wished to be enrolled as a member, and subscribed fifty dollars; at the same time said that if it was possible he would be present on the occasion.

Saturday after receiving the visits of numerous citizens, among which were many of his old fellow soldiers of the revolutionary army, he paid a visit to Medford and dined with his old friend and copatriot Brooks.

On Monday the Boston Brigade paraded in honour of Lafayette, and were reviewed by him on the Common, amidst a vast concourse of spectators from all parts of the country.

General Lafayette left Boston on Tuesday morning for Portsmouth, in the state of New-Hampshire, and passed through Marblehead, Salem and Newburyport, on his way to the former place. A number of distinguished citizens, and a Committee of the City Council accompanied him to the northern line of the city; and the Governor's Aids attended him to the extreme part of the state adjoining New-Hampshire. On his route he was greeted by the inhabitants of Chelsea, Lynn and Marblehead, with great feeling and respect, alike honourable to themselves and gratifying to the friend and guest of the nation. Addresses were also made to him in these several towns, expressive of their gratitude for his services, and of the lively sense they had of his present visit to this country.

At Beverly and Ipswich he received from the assembled inhabitants, the same cordial welcome with which he had been greeted in other towns through which he passed.

He reached Newburyport a little past ten o'clock, where he passed the night. He left Newburyport on Wednesday morning for the capital of New-Hampshire, where he arrived about noon, and was received with all those demonstrations of joy,

which had attended him in every place that he had visited after his arrival on our shores.

He returned to Boston about seven o'clock on Thursday morning; and after taking some necessary repose, he received a number of revolutionary officers and soldiers and deputations from several towns in the interior, lying on his route to Connecticut. After taking leave of the State and City Authorities, he started on his return to New-York, and passed through Worcester, Hartford, &c. where the people greeted him with the same enthusiasm as at other places.

He returned to New-York on the 4th September, and was again received with all the honours and attentions that could be shown. He attended a splendid Ball given at Castle Garden, dined with the Masonic Societies, Cincinnati, &c. and after receiving the congratulations of numerous citizens, and several Societies, he proceeded up the North River on a visit to West Point, Albany, Troy, &c. where after passing several days, and receiving all the honours that could be conferred by a numerous concourse of the inhabitants from all parts of the country, and visiting the Grand Canal, he returned to New-York, and proceeded on his journey towards the seat of the general government. He passed through New-Jersey, and entered Philadelphia, where he was received by one of the most splendid processions ever known in this country.

His entrance into the fair city, founded by the wise and benevolent PENN, is described as most magnificent in all its accompaniments. The population poured forth to meet him at an early hour. Carriages, horsemen and pedestrians filled every avenue for a distance of five miles; and the windows and stagings were thronged with ladies eager to welcome him. Just at the entrance of the city, a division of militia, composed of cavalry, artillery and infantry, was drawn up in a hollow square, on a piece of land of about forty acres, to receive the Patriot Hero, whose approach was announced by a salute of 100 rounds of artillery. Lafayette, uncovered and standing up in his barouche, was seen by the whole field. The car of Saladin could not have exceeded that of Lafayette. The troops were nearly six thousand. After the review, which the General made on foot, he received the saluting honors in his barouche.

The line of march into the city was then taken up. It extended nearly three miles, and passed through numerous streets. More than six hours were consumed in proceeding from Frankfort to the State House, a distance of about four miles.

After the procession had passed through the principal streets, the front halted at the Old State House, which contains the Hall in which the *Declaration of Independence* was signed in 1776.

General Lafayette remained in Philadelphia a week; and the repeated and constant attentions shown him by public societies and by distinguished individuals, were such as might have been expected from the celebrated hospitality and civism of that city, and such as was not unworthy of their eminent guest.

The 5th of Oct. Lafayette left Philadelphia, on his journey to the south, by the way of Wilmington, Baltimore and Washington. He passed the Brandywine, and entered Wilmington, the capital of Delaware, on the 6th about noon. He was received with demonstrations of lively gratitude and joy; and a sumptuous repast was provided for him. He then proceeded to Newcastle in that state. From this place he proceeded to Frenchtown, where he was received by the aids of the Governor of Maryland, with a battalion of horse as an escort for their honorable guest. Several revolutionary officers and soldiers, who had repaired to this place for the pleasure of an early meeting, were introduced to him. The joy of the meeting was reciprocal. Among the many former personal friends, he met here with M. Du Bois Martin, who procured the ship in which Lafayette first came to America in 1777. The interview must have been extremely interesting.

Lafayette embarked at Frenchtown in the steam boat United States, for Baltimore, furnished for his accommodation by that city. He was received into this city by a numerous cavalcade, and a military escort, which conducted him through the principal streets to the Exchange.

After this he descended at the Exchange, where he was received by the Mayor and Councils, with an appropriate address and answer. He thence proceeded in his carriage to Light-street, across which, at the entrance into Market-street, an elegant pavilion had been erected, and where he was received by a fine military assemblage. Here there was a truly splendid ceremony, in presentment by the Mayor, to the General, with Pulaski's standard, made during the revolutionary war by a Moravian Nun, at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which belonged to Pulaski's legion, raised in Baltimore in 1778. In the evening, the city was brilliantly illuminated, and many of the public and private buildings exhibited appropriate transparencies.

On Friday, hundreds of citizens were presented to the General, in the Hall of the Exchange; and in the afternoon he dined with the Mayor and Corporation. At seven o'clock in the evening he was received at Masonic Hall, by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, in the presence of eight hundred brethren. The General dined with the Cincinnati on Saturday. His honours on leaving the city were as magnificent as those of his reception. He departed under escort on Monday, over the Washington turnpike. He was to

pass the night 30 miles from Baltimore, and enter Washington city on Tuesday at noon.

In no city which General Lafayette visited, had he met with a more cordial reception than Baltimore.

General Lafayette arrived in the city of Washington, according to previous arrangement, about 1 o'clock on Tuesday the 12th, where he was received with all the pomp and demonstrations of joy that had attended him through the country where he had passed. He was addressed by the Mayor and authorities and other distinguished individuals. He was received by the President of the United States and heads of department in the Capitol and was addressed by the President in an affectionate manner, to which the General made a suitable reply.

Sunday morning he visited the tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon, accompanied by Mr. Custis, the nearest male relative of that most distinguished patriot. Lafayette spent an hour at this hallowed spot, where were deposited the mortal remains of this most respected friend, whom he loved, venerated and was ever desirous to imitate. He also paid a visit to Georgetown and Alexandria, where due honours were paid him.

Great preparations had been made by the citizens of Virginia, and by the state authorities, to celebrate the anniversary of the capture of the British army, under Lord Cornwallis, at Yorktown, on the 19th of October, 1781; an event, in which Lafayette took a very active and useful part; perhaps no General in the siege, under Washington, was more active and useful—an event, also, which had great and immediate influence with the English government, to acknowledge our independence and offer terms of an honourable peace. General Lafayette had been invited, some weeks before, to be present in Yorktown, at this time.

Lafayette arrived at Yorktown on the 17th, where great preparations were made for his reception and for the celebration of the following day.

On Monday 18th, the reception was purely civic, not a soldier appeared under arms. But on the 19th the military spectacle was imposing and brilliant. Soon after breakfast, Lafayette walked from his quarters, to the tent of Washington, surrounded by the committee of arrangements and others. Numbers were then introduced to him—many ladies, the veteran soldiers of the revolution, citizens from other states and all quarters of Virginia.

This celebration was very splendid, and did much honour to the patriotism of Virginia.

The whole scene defies description. Here were the fields, which forty-three years ago, had witnessed the tread of a con-

quered enemy! A thousand associations of this description rushed upon the mind. Now, filled with an animated and joyous throng of from 10 to 15,000 persons. The spectacle surpassed all expectation; all expression.

He left York Wednesday afternoon, and reached Williamsburg in the evening, where he was received with open arms by the citizens. Hence he proceeded to Norfolk, where he had been previously invited, and where great preparations were made to receive him according to his distinguished merit, and his highly important services to the country. From Norfolk he proceeded to Richmond; and visited many of the principal places in Virginia. He also paid a visit to the venerable past Presidents, Jefferson and Madison, by whom he was received with great cordiality.

General Lafayette returned to Washington on Tuesday, the 23d of November, and was received with undiminished testimonials of affectionate respect. On Wednesday, 28th, he left Washington for Baltimore, and was present at the great Cattle Show, which took place in that vicinity, and delivered the premiums awarded on the occasion.

He returned to Washington soon after, and was present at the meeting of Congress, on the 6th of December. One of the first things done on the assembling of Congress, was to appoint a committee to make arrangements to receive the nation's guest, and pay him all due honors; who reported that each house adopt its own measures. Both houses passed resolves that all proper honors be paid to the distinguished individual, and he was invited to take a seat in the Senate Chamber, by its President, and on Thursday the 9th he attended accordingly, when every respect was shown him by this august body.

The House of Representatives appointed a Committee of 24, one from each state, to introduce him into that body; and the next day he was introduced by the committee and was addressed by the Speaker, to which he made a very affectionate reply.

He visited Annapolis on the 17th, where the Legislature of Maryland were in session, and was received by them with every mark of attention and respect due to the nation's guest.

As a token of the gratitude of the nation, and as a reward for the important services rendered to this country in her revolutionary struggle, and for the sacrifices made in our cause, Congress passed the following act, which had been recommended by the President in his Message.

Be it enacted, &c. That the sum of two hundred thousand dollars be, and is hereby granted to Major General Lafayette, in compensation for his important services and expenditures during

the American revolution, and that the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorised to pay him the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That one complete and entire township of land be, and the same is hereby granted to the said Maj. Gen. Lafayette, and that the President of the United States be authorized to cause the said township to be located on any of the public lands, which remain unsold, and that patents be issued to Gen. Lafayette for the same.

A public dinner was given on the first day of January, by the members of Congress, to Lafayette, at which were present the President and heads of departments, with many other distinguished guests.

He about this time paid a visit to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, which was in session at Harrisburg, where he was received with every mark of respect and attention, that could be conferred by the constituted authorities of the state.

Lafayette remained in Washington, occasionally making visits to some of his old friends, till the 23d of February, when he, accompanied by his son and Secretary, started on his tour to the Southern and Western States. He took the steam boat to Norfolk, thence by land through the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, to New Orleans. He passed rapidly on his journey, receiving the same universal greetings of welcome and honors, that have attended him in every part of the country that he has visited.

When the general was at Camden, he assisted in laying the corner stone of a monument to the memory of Baron de Kalb. While in North Carolina he wrote thus to a friend in Virginia—
“ I have scarcely time to perform a journey of upwards of 5000 miles before I attend the part assigned me, as the only surviving Major General, on Bunker's Hill, the 17th of June. It is not only the independence of the United States, but the independence of both Americas that is to be celebrated by that half secular Jubilee; and before I get there, I shall have visited all the Southern and Western States.”

He arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, on the 14th March, where he was welcomed by every demonstration of joy and gratitude that could be shewn by all classes of the people. A numerous cavalcade and procession conducted him into the city to the City-Hall, where he was addressed by the Intendant. A public dinner was given him, and he attended the Theatre in the evening. He remained in Charleston but three days; during which time many of his old comrades in arms were introduced to him, and a splendid ball was given in honor of the Nation's Guest.

On Thursday he sat out in a steam boat for Georgia, taking Edisto Island, Beaufort, &c. in his way.

He made a splendid entry into Savannah, in, Georgia, on the 19th of March. The civic, municipal, popular and military honors were of the first order. On Monday he assisted in laying the corner stones of monuments to the memory of Major General Greene and Count Piloski, heroes of the revolution.

One of the first circumstances attending the visit of the Nation's Guest, is the influence which his presence gives to re-animate the long dormant feelings of gratitude, for the memory of men, who fought and died to establish the independence of our country, and its present unrivalled prosperity.

After leaving Georgia, and having visited several of the principal places in that state, in all of which, he was received and greeted by all classes of the people with enthusiastic feelings of of gratitude and respect, he passed on his journey, through the state of Alabama. On passing the Creek country, he was welcomed by the Indians in their best manner. On crossing the river Chautahocffie, he was received by the tribe, and having taken a horse from a snikey, they drew the General up the bank of the river; then formed themselves in a circle, and went through their ceremonies, amusing him with a ball play, which lasted an hour. The General was much pleased, and the whole was very amusing to those, who never before witnessed such odd scenes. He was here met by the Alabama escort, commanded by Gen Taylor, and was addressed by Mr. Bibb.

The people of this new member of our political family shewed Lafayette all that attention and respect, and bestowed upon him all the honours, that gratitude and a true patriotic spirit could dictate. He visited many of their principal places, and witnessed their extraordinary prosperity, and increase of population, with which he was much gratified, as well as astonished at the country's growth.

On his approach towards New-Orleans, he was met, on going up the Mississippi, by a procession of steam boats, who escorted him into that city, where he was received in the most splendid manner. It was said that the style and grandeur of the preparations made for his reception, exceeded all former example. He was addressed by the Governor of the state, the Mayor and Recorder, to which he replied with much affection. He attended the theatre; and a public dinner, and a most splendid ball, were given in honor of the occasion during his stay there.

Lafayette left New-Orleans, after making a short stop there, in a steam boat, to traverse a vast extent of our western country. He visited in his progress, some of the principal places in Tennessee, Illinois, &c was received and greeted by the people, with all the attentions and honors that could be shewn at the different

places he stopped at. The farthest extent of his journey was St. Louis, the capital of the state of Missouri, where his reception was very splendid.

He left St. Louis, and descended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Ohio, passed up that river; stopping at many of the largest settlements on the way, and receiving the honors of the people in all those places. In many of them, particularly at Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky, and Cincinnati in Ohio, great preparations were made for his reception, and splendid entertainments were given to honor the Guest of the nation.

In his passage up the Ohio, between its mouth and Louisville, he met with a serious accident. The steam boat, in which he took passage, ran on a snag, and immediately sunk in eighteen feet water. The General saved nothing of his baggage but one or two trunks, and lost his private carriage and papers, and among other things the cane which had belonged to his early friend, Washington, which he highly valued. The accident happened at midnight of the 8th of May, about 150 miles below Louisville. The passengers were saved by the great exertions of the Captain, and were safely landed, after being in much danger of a watery grave. The accident, however, delayed him but a few hours, for another steam boat, which was passing, took them on to Louisville. He entered Lexington the 16th of May, where he was received by a hearty welcome from the people, and an exhibition was given in his presence of the students of Transylvania College, under the direction of President Holley, which was honorable to the institution, and very gratifying to the General.

Lafayette arrived at Pittsburg, Penn. on the 30th of May, where the same splendid preparations were made to receive him, as in other populous places he had visited. He left this place for Erie, on the lake of that name, the 1st of June, took passage from Erie for Buffalo on the 3d in the steam brig Superior; and left the latter place on the 5th, passed through Lockport, Rochester, &c. examined the Grand Canal, and arrived at Utica on the 8th. He was at Albany on Saturday the 10th where he spent the Sabbath, and proceeded for Boston on Monday, where he arrived on Wednesday the 15th; to fulfil the promise he made nearly a year ago, to be present at the laying the corner stone of the Bunker Hill Monument, as the only surviving Major General of the revolutionary army.

We have thus traced, in a hasty manner, the progress of Lafayette in the performance of one of the greatest journeys ever before undertaken by a man of his age; having in the space of about four months, travelled nearly five thousand miles, besides having visited and received the honors of the people at the principal places through which he passed.

ORDER OF PROCESSION,
AND CEREMONIES IN LAYING THE CORNER STONE
OF THE
Bunker Hill Monument.

JUNE 17, 1825.

The procession will move from the State House *precisely* at *ten* o'clock—through Park, Common, School-streets—Cornhill, Dock Square, Union, Hanover, Prince-street; over Charles River Bridge—The Maine Street, Green, and High-streets, to the site of the Monument.

MILITARY ESCORT.

SURVIVORS OF THE BATTLE

with badges, "Bunker Hill, June 1775;"

The Members of the Bunker Hill Monument Association—

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.—

The most worshipful Grand Master, John Abbot, Esq.—

having accepted an invitation to lay the

Corner Stone, accompanied by the

Fraternity of Masons,

The President of the B. H. M. A.

The Rev. Joseph Thaxter, Revolutionary Chaplain, and the

Rev. James Walker, Chaplain of the Occasion.

Vice-President of B. H. M. A.

Directors.

Committee of Correspondence.

Other Committees.

Secretary and Treasurer.

The President of the United States, in a Carriage.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE AND SON,

in an open Carriage.

General Lafayette's Suite, in a Carriage.

The Officers of the Revolutionary Army,

and Revolutionary Navy.

The Cincinnati of Massachusetts and other States.

His Excellency the Governor.
 His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and Executive Council.
 Adjutant General, Secretary, Treasurer.
 The Honorable, the Senate.
 The Honorable House of Representatives.
 Governors of other States.
 Heads of Departments of United States.
 Senators of United States.
 Members of the House of Representatives of the United States.
 Members of Foreign Legations and Consuls.
 Judges of the United States' Courts, and of the State Courts of
 Massachusetts, and other States—*Attorney and Solicitor*
General—Attorney of United States.
Marshal of the United States—Sheriffs—Clerks.
 Delegation from Charleston, S. C. and Providence, R. I.
 specially commissioned to attend the celebration.
Strangers of Distinction of other States, invited to attend.
 Officers of Navy and Army of the United States.
 Members of the Legislatures of other States.
 The Mayor of the city of Boston, and President of the
 Common Council.
 Board of Aldermen of the City of Boston—
 Chairman and Selectmen of Charlestown.
 Presidents of Colleges, and the Reverend Clergy.
 Heads of Societies.
 Historical Society of Massachusetts.
 Delegation of the Pilgrim Society.
Officers of the Militia in uniform.
 Invited citizens of Massachusetts.

On arriving at the site of the Monument, the different parts of the procession will be distributed in close order on the sides of the square, into which no persons can be admitted, but those who belong to the procession.

The ceremonies of laying the Corner Stone will then take place, and immediately afterwards, the procession will be disposed of in the amphitheatre—erected on the north side of the Hill—To hear the address to be there delivered by the *President of the Association*, accompanied by suitable solemnities.

A new procession will then be formed to be composed of those persons *only*, who shall have provided themselves with cards of admission to the dinner—and of the few persons whom the Directors supposed they should consult the wishes of the Association, in receiving as Guests—and so formed, this procession will move to the place prepared on Bunker Hill to dine.

The numerous Masonic Brethren are arranged according to ancient Masonic usage, as laid down in the book of Constitutions.

A splendid Amphitheatre has been erected, which will contain many thousands, where the Address is to be delivered by Hon. Daniel Webster, President of the Association; and other ceremonies performed. A most spacious marquee has also been erected on the top of Bunker Hill, and tables laid for 4000 which will be filled to overflowing. All the arrangement are upon the most extensive scale, and every thing done to make this celebration superior to any thing of the kind ever seen in this country.





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